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BALTIMORE SUN 21 September 1985



SOVIET UNION

Soviet researcher held as alleged spy for CIA

The Soviet secret service announced yesterday the arrest of a Soviet citizen who it said spied for the CIA and gave military information to an American diplomat.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Jaroslav Verner declined to comment, saying, "The embassy does not comment on intelligence matters or allegations."

The KGB identified the alleged spy as A. G. Tolkachev and said he was a staff member at one of Moscow's research institutes. It did not say when he was arrested but it said he was caught passing material to a U.S. diplomat expelled June 14. It also did not say why the announcement was being made now.

In West Germany, meanwhile, Kremlin spokesman Leonid Zamyatin called Britain's expulsion of 31 aileged Soviet spies part of a campaign to raise tensions before next month's U.S.-Soviet summit in Geneva, Switzerland.